

**Technical Advisory Board Planning Committee
Organizational Meeting
June 7, 2005
3:00 p.m.**

The Technical Advisory Board Planning Committee met on June 7, 2005 at 3:00 p.m. at the Georgia Soil & Water Commission District Office in Conyers.

Those in attendance were:

Mike Breedlove, Breedlove Land Planning
Jimmy Dean, Dean Agronomics
Georgene Geary, GA DOT
Jim Hamilton, Southern Civil Engineers, Stakeholder Advisory Board
Wayne King, EARTH Products, LLC
Dr. Mark Risse, UGA-Extension Service
John Slupecki, American Excelsior
Jan Sammons, Environmental Protection Division
David Bennett, Executive Director, GASWCC
Brent Dykes, Deputy Director, GASWCC
Michaelyn Rozar, Interim Urban Water Program Manager, GASWCC
Jennifer Standridge, E&S Certification Data Entry Specialist, GASWCC

Committee members not in attendance:

Anna Bramblett, NRCS
Brian Kimsey, NRCS
Alice Champagne, Upper Chattahoochee Riverkeeper
Woody Snell, Cobb County Soil & Water Conservation District

Introduction

The meeting was called to order and Committee member introductions were made by Mr. Bennett. Mike Breedlove was introduced as the chairman for the Technical Advisory Board Planning Committee.

Role, Purpose and Goals of the Technical Advisory Committee

Mr. Bennett explained that the commission's role will be to provide administrative support for the Board. Mr. Bennett also stated that a quorum for board decisions is six members. Mr. Bennett then explained that the goal of the committee is to develop an on-going process for updating and/or maintaining information included in the Commission's *Manual for Erosion & Sediment*

Control. The committee is charged with revising the structure of the book as well as the types of testing and data that will be used when considering practices and products for inclusion in the *Manual*. Mr. Bennett explained that he wants a process that is easily defensible and easy to understand. The ultimate objective is to provide information on best management practices that will best help Georgians to control sedimentation and erosion. Standardized testing and peer review will be conducted on products and practices currently in use or proposed for inclusion in the *Manual*. Mr. Bennett also stated that a review committee will be formed.

Mr. Bennett would like for the *Manual* to be updated at least twice per year. The updates will automatically be sent to individuals who already have a copy of the *Manual*.

Mr. Breedlove stated that there are a lot of products and practices that have “champions” promoting their use, while other equally efficient practices have no advocates to promote their implementation. He asked if the committee is to focus on new products or on alternative, lesser known, but highly effective practices? Mr. Bennett explained that he expects the committee to consider both aspects.

Mr. Bennett stated that the Technical Advisory Committee is a policy group. The committee is not charged with re-writing the *Manual*, but in developing policies for determining inclusion of new information, means, and methods of erosion and sediment control. Mr. Bennett also charged the committee with developing a policy that governs the role of the technical review group.

Mr. Bennett said that he realizes that this process could take some outside research or consulting. He said that the Commission will provide for this as necessary. Michaelyn Rozar is the contact person for setting this up.

Group Discussion

Mr. Breedlove suggested that the information in the *Stormwater Manual* and the *Manual for Erosion and Sediment Control* be streamlined. He said that there are many practices that are very effective that are not discussed in both manuals. Mr. Bennett explained that the Commission does not have the authority, under statute, to make stormwater design decisions. Mr. Hamilton explained that many people consider the *Stormwater Manual* as a good reference guide and that his employees have started to reference it when talking with or educating clients.

Mr. Breedlove discussed the issue of obtaining a performance function of the BMPs that are currently in the *Manual for E&S Control*. He stated that turbidity vs. TSS, and real world testing are both issues for consideration.

Mr. Breedlove informed the Committee that he has done some research and proceeded to hand out copies of an article regarding research and testing of

erosion and sediment control products and methods. (This article is attached to these minutes).

Mr. Bennett explained that he is looking not only for new practices, but better explanations on current practices. Better explanation is needed for planners on the expected results from specific practices. He also suggested that both the *Manual for Erosion and Sediment Control* and the *Erosion & Sediment Control Field Manual* be rearranged into reader friendly formats.

Mr. Risse said that he thinks this is a continuous job that will never be done. He explained new BMPs are being developed all the time. The possibility of the need for an advisory board to exist on a continual basis was also discussed.

Mr. Breedlove suggested the Committee consider four key factors when considering each product and/or practice in the *Manual*. The four factors are Issue, Features, Benefits, and Proof.

Mr. Dean also explained that there is a great need for the *Manual* to include reader friendly instructions on proper installation of BMPs. Mr. Breedlove explained that rules need to be made specifically to address reprimanding or penalizing site workers who improperly install measures. Mr. Bennett stated that the *Manual* can not solve that issue.

Mr. Bennett explained that things like phased projects aren't discussed in the *Manual*. However, he thinks it would be beneficial if they were. He stated that the *Manual* is not specific enough, especially if it is being used to educate a new worker on BMPs, principles, laws, etc. The manual also needs to include things not to do when installing and maintaining BMPs. Also, new and improved photos need to be included.

Mr. King stated that BMPs are failing at an alarming rate, creating a great need for testing and development of alternative practices. He said that definitions need to be clearer in the *Manual*. An additional problem is that there is no facility which performs tests on all, or even a majority, of the practices. There is also a need for a better understanding of the characteristics of the soils in the Piedmont area of Georgia. Mr. King also suggesting that the Committee write the language in a way that MOAs can be written around them. He further suggested that city and county municipalities may want use the *Manual* to develop their local ordinances.

Ms. Geary suggested that the *Manual* should also include which specific practices are best for use in mountainous areas, coastal areas, clayey areas, etc. She then presented a hand out of the guidelines used by the DOT when evaluating new products. (This document is attached to these minutes).

Mr. King informed the Committee that he is representing the Georgia Green Industry on this committee and explained that they are interested not only in E&S control, but in working closely with designers and post construction activities. He would like these people considered when the committee determines the type of information to include in the *Manual*.

Dr. Risse informed the Committee that in October he will be speaking at a stormwater management and erosion and sediment control conference in Peachtree City. He invited committee members to invite anyone they think would be interested in attending.

Timeline for Completion

Mr. Hamilton asked that the group set a time line for completion of the revised information. Mr. Hamilton explained that one reason for the new E&S certification 3-year re-certification rule, was because it was anticipated that the updated *Manual* would be ready by then. Mr. Hamilton also explained that he is frequently questioned about when a new manual will be available, or as to where more current information may be found.

Mr. Bennett expressed his desire to see something within 8 to 10 months. He expressed concern that the Commission is currently giving courses and seminars using outdated materials. Mr. Bennett also stated that he understands that this is a complicated undertaking and that the end product must be bullet proof and user friendly.

Mr. Breedlove asked for a 4-6 month timeline. He suggested that sub-committees be formed to tackle specific items and conduct research.

Schedule of Future Meetings

Mr. Breedlove asked how often the committee will meet.

Mr. King suggested the committee have one more meeting before breaking out into sub-committees. He suggested a bi-weekly meeting program.

Mr. Hamilton agreed with the bi-weekly meeting schedule and suggested that at the next meeting the committee use a flip chart to break down the different focus areas.

The Committee agreed that future meetings will be held in the GASWCC office in Conyers. The next meeting will be June 21 at 1:00 p.m.

Mr. Breedlove will send a proposed meeting schedule to the commission. Commission staff will be responsible for sending out meeting notices and copies of minutes to committee members.

Mr. Breedlove suggested everyone review the purpose and mission of the committee and come to the next meeting with a prepared list of ideas and suggestions on how to proceed.

Mr. Bennett thanked the members for their participation and asked that they please contact him regarding any problems or concerns they may have.

Submitted by Jennifer Standridge